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REVIEWS

Geology of the Nome and Grand Central Quadrangles, Alaska. By FRED H. MOFFIT. Bull. U.S. Geol. Surv. No. 533, 1913. Pp. 136.

The Nome and Grand Central quadrangles are situated in the south-central part of Seward Peninsula in an area included between 165° and $165^{\circ}30'$ west longitude and $64^{\circ}25'$ and $64^{\circ}57'$ north latitude. The Tigaraha schist which is the uppermost member of the Kigluaik group (early Paleozoic and possibly in part pre-Paleozoic) is the oldest formation exposed. One principal granite mass and smaller dikes and sills intrude this schist. The relation between the Tigaraha schist and the overlying Nome group appears to be one of conformity. The Nome group (probably middle Paleozoic) makes up the greater part of the mapped area. It consists of two schist horizons with an intervening limestone formation. These beds are cut by greenstone dikes and sills and to a small extent by granite. Quaternary (possibly including some Tertiary) deposits that consist of marine and fluvial sands and gravels and glacial débris succeed the Nome group. The mineral wealth of the Nome district lies in its placer deposits. The richest of these are rapidly decreasing, so that the present production can be maintained only by new and better methods. The placers are described as residual, stream, beach, and gravel plain. Dredging will play an important rôle in the future development. A historic outline of the Nome placer development is given. There are gold, stibnite, bismuth, scheelite, copper, and graphite lodes, but these are at present not of commercial importance.

V. O. T.

Coastal Glaciers of Prince William Sound and Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. By U. S. GRANT and D. F. HIGGINS. Bull. U.S. Geol. Surv. No. 526, 1913. Pp. 72.

The aim of this report is to "supply some definite information regarding the present positions of the fronts of the glaciers" of Prince William Sound and Kenai Peninsula and "the more evident facts of their fluctuations." The Barry, Surprise, Chenega, Princeton, and Holgate glaciers have retreated from one to two miles within from 10 to 50 years or more. Since the growth of the present coniferous forest, the Columbia and Bainbridge glaciers have recently advanced to their maximum positions. The glaciers on the west side of College Fiord and Harvard Glacier have been advancing for the past ten years; their maximum advance was in 1905. Many of the glaciers have exhibited alternate advances and retreats of notable extent. There is no indication of a general advance or retreat during the last 50 years. These glaciers are remnants of an ice sheet whose upper surface once reached an elevation of 2,000 feet at the main coast line. The accompanying photographs (that constitute 40 plates) of the glaciers are exceedingly good and instructive.

V. O. T.